Radio Hosts Race For Charity at MIT

The SCCA oversaw the design of the race course and officiated the event. The race course has “a couple of places where it could get interesting,” said Fred White of the SCCA, who helped design the course. While most race courses are 1.5 to 2 miles long, the University Park track was only half a mile long, White said.

SCCA officials were primarily concerned with safety, Hiland said, especially people walking in front of cars or drivers crashing into the hay bales and tires that defined the boundary.

Several streets were closed off for the race. “For years I’ve been trying to get the City of Cambridge to close the streets whenever my brother drives, and now, thanks to the Arthritis Foundation, they’re finally doing it,” Tom said.

“It’s such a good organization for us to support and also gain some exposure” said the event manager for the Bertucci’s Pizza team. Bertucci’s won pre-race awards for the fastest tire change and most creative design.

Mini grand prix races are “unique in that it links corporate giving to creative fundraising,” according to John Nord, chief executive officer of ASB Meditest which sponsored two cars. Nord also served as race chairman.

“We’re glad to be supporting a good cause,” Ray Magliozzi said. The Arthritis Foundation is projecting that by the year 2020, more than 59 million Americans will suffer from some form of arthritis, he said. “That’s one in every six people ... more people than suffer from my brother’s disease: stupidity.”

The mini grand prix is “really a great way to raise money,” Tom said. “Everybody had fun.”

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